

Important Information About Your SNAP or TANF Benefits

SNAP AND TANF PROGRAMS – POSSIBLE CHANGE IN BENEFIT AMOUNTS

December 2012

The amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits you receive each month may change, beginning January 2013.

This change is due to the annual cost-of-living adjustment in the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks, as well as a change in the Medicare premium.

If you disagree with the new amount of SNAP or TANF you receive, you have the right to request a fair hearing. At the hearing you will have a chance to explain why you think this change is incorrect, and a hearing officer will decide if you are right.

You may request a hearing on your SNAP case within the next 90 days (30 days for TANF) as long as the issue appealed is based on the improper computation of your benefits, or the misapplication or misinterpretation of federal law or regulations. If your benefits decreased, you have the right to continue to receive your previous amount until the hearing officer writes a final decision; however, you may have to repay benefits you are over issued if the hearing officer agrees with the action taken. You may request a hearing by contacting your worker at your local Social Services Agency or you may call **1-800-552-3431**.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Based on your earnings in 2012, you may be eligible for the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. You must file your taxes to qualify. You can file your taxes for FREE at an IRS approved free tax preparation site. The EITC can provide you with a refund of up to **\$5,891** based on family size and income. The EITC helps millions of families each year pay bills, lower debts, meet basic needs, and save for the future. To find a free tax prep site near you dial **2-1-1** or visit **www.211virginia.org**.

FOR QUESTIONS AND TO REPORT REQUIRED CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER

